iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic consideration;

v) To minimize transhipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transhipment points.

Gauge conversion works are also taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward areas.

(c) and (d) There is only one Metre Gauge line on South Central Railway for which Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for expeditious completion. On this Dharmavaram-Pakala line, conversion of Pakala-Madanapalli has already been completed and awaiting certification by Commissioner of Railway Safety. The portion from Madanapalli Dharmavaram is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

Road overbridges in Himachal Pradesh

853. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some proposals of rail cum road overbridges (ROBs) in Himachal Pradesh are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposals;

(c) whether the State Government has completed all the preliminary formalities for getting sanctioned the said proposals;

(d) if not, the details of the negotiations Government has made with the State Government, so far; and

(e) the details of results of the said negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a), (b) (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Proposals for three ROBs on deposit terms were initiated by the State Govt. details of which are as under:

Name of work	Status
1. Road over bridge (ROB) at Fared, Km. 120/8-7 on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section	State Govt. has not conveyed acceptance of conceptual profile sketch and abstract Estimate which were sent to them on 1.5.2007. P&E (Plan & Estimate) charges have also not been deposited by them.
2. Road Over Bridge at Km. 116/8-9 near Tabha village on Sirhind-Unna section	Joint feasibility studies could not be taken up due to poor response from State Govt. for last 2 years.
3. ROB in lieu of LC No. 323 at Km. 143/1-2 on Pathankot-Jogindernagar section near Baijnath Mahakal.	P&E charges have not yet been deposited by State Govt. to enable Railways taking further action

(c) No, Sir.

Rail projects in Gujarat

854. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the railway line between Patan-Bhiladi;

(b) whether she is aware about reduction in Railway facilities subsequent to conversion to broad gauge between Patan-Mehsana in North Gujarat; and

(c) how much time her Ministry would take to provide daily two trains between Patan and Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The work of land acquisition and major bridges has been taken up for construction of new line Patan-Bhildi.

(b) During conversion, one of the level crossings has been closed as it was not feasible. Traffic of this L-xing was diverted to a nearby L-xing.

(c) 273-274 Ahmedabad-Patan passenger has been introduced from 14.02.2009. At present, there is no such proposal to introduce additional train on Ahmedabad-Mahesana-Patan section.

New trains and rail projects in Kerala

855. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to start regular trains from Ernakulam-Shoruur-Ernakulam and Kottayam-Ernakulam-Kottayam; and

(b) what is the provision for doubling of rail line from Ernakulam to Kayamkulam and by when it is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no proposal to start trains between Ernakulam-Shoranur and Ernakulam-Kottayam. However, the following trains announced in the Railways Budget 2009-10 will serve the Ernakulam area also:

1. Ernakulam-Delhi Express Non-stop
2. Bangalore-Kochuveli Express
3. Mangalore-Thiruvananthapuram Express
4. Ernakulam-Goa Express
5. Bilaspur-Tirunelveli Express
6. Hapa-Tirunelveli Express
7. Extension of 2075/2076 Thiruvananthapuram-Ernakulam Jan Shatabdi Express to Kozhikode.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 100.5 crore has been proposed for the patch doublings taken up between Ernakulam-Kayankulam route. Work on these doublings is likely to be completed in next 2-3 years subject to handing over of the required land by the State Government and availability of resources.

Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nagpur railway line

†856.MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi